



NS-US045036

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	
Tadayuki HATSUDA et al.	:	Patent Art Unit: 3618
Serial No.: 10/816,892	:	Examiner: Christopher Bottorff
Filed: April 5, 2004	:	
For: DRIVE APPARATUS FOR VEHICLE	:	

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

In accordance with MPEP 609 and 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants bring the attached reference to the Examiner's attention and request that they be considered and made of record in this application. Also attached is a completed PTO-1449 form.

I hereby certify that each item of information in the Information Disclosure Statement filed herewith was cited for the first time in any communication from a foreign patent office in any counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement. A copy of European Search Report of the corresponding European Application No. 04252115 is attached hereto.

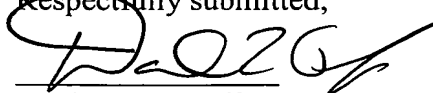
Since this application was filed after June 30, 2003, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office waives the requirement under 37 C.F.R. 1.98 (a) (2) (i) for submitting a copy of each cited U.S. Patent and each U.S. patent application publication.

No fee is believed to be required in view of the above certification. However, Applicants authorize the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks to charge payment of the

Petition fee Under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) *if required* and any other fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1836.

Prompt examination on the merits is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



David L. Tarnoff
Attorney of Record
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Dated: 8-30-06

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

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Complete if Known

Application Number

10/816 892

Filing Date

April 5, 2004

First Named Inventor

Tadavuki HATSUDA et al.

Group Art Unit

3618

Examiner Name

Christopher Bottorff

Attorney Docket Number

NS-US045036

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	Pages, Columns, Lines, Where Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T ⁶
		Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)				
		EP-1219492	07/03/2002	SCHMIDT et al.	Paragraphs [0031], [0037]-[0045], claim 1, figures 1-5	N/A
		EP-0752753	01/08/1997	WEBSTER	The whole document	N/A
		EP-0493848	07/08/1992	RIPPEL et al.	The whole document	N/A

**Examiner
Signature**

Date
Considered

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹ Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ² See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

³ Applicant should designate the document number (optional). See www.uspto.gov for patent documents at www.uspto.gov or WIPO ST.3. ⁴ Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁵ For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁶ Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁷ Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

Burden Hour Statement: This form is estimated to take 2.0 hours to complete. Time will vary depending upon the needs of the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, Washington, DC 20231. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO:** Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231.